

CLAIMS

1. - Multispot satellite communication system in a multimedia broadcasting network, which comprises at least one broadcasting unit (1) capable of setting up bidirectional communication with a satellite (S) and at 5 least one user unit (2) capable of setting up bidirectional communication with said satellite (S), said bidirectional communication comprising a downlink direction (P2; U2; C2) of transmitting from said satellite (S) and an uplink direction (P1; U1; C1) of transmitting to said satellite (S), characterised in that said communication in the uplink direction (P1; U1; C1) contains at least 10 one return channel to the satellite and said communication in the downlink direction (P2; U2; C2) is suitable for being processed directly by the user unit (2) by means of a receiver/decoder device that forms part of said unit.

2. - System according to claim 1, characterised in that it comprises at least one regenerator means (4) for multiplexing the communication in the 15 uplink direction (P1; U1) producing a signal for carrying out the communication in the downlink direction (P2; U2).

3. - System according to any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that said return channel is suitable for carrying information generated in the broadcasting unit (1) or in the user unit (2).

20 4. - System according to claim 1, characterised in that it also comprises a control unit (3) suitable for performing network control and management functions.

25 5. - System according to claim 4, characterised in that said control unit is suitable for establishing communication with the satellite (S) in the uplink direction (C1) and in the downlink direction (C2) of the type of the respective communications of claim 1.

30 6. - Regenerator unit (4) to be included in the system of claim 1, characterised in that it comprises at least one demultiplexing means (41) for demultiplexing uplink channels (P1; U1; C1), at least one multiplexing means (43) for multiplexing information bits to be sent in a channel in the downlink direction (P2, U2; C2) and at least one formatting means (44) for giving format to said channel in the downlink direction in such a manner that it is suitable for being processed directly by a user unit (2) by means of a receiver/decoder device that forms part of said unit.

35 7. - Method for carrying out multispot satellite communication in a

- multimedia broadcasting network that comprises at least one broadcasting unit (1) capable of setting up bidirectional communication with a satellite (S) and at least one user unit (2) capable of setting up bidirectional communication with said satellite (S), said bidirectional communication being
- 5 carried out in a downlink direction (P2; U2, C2) of transmission from said satellite (S) and an uplink direction (P1; U1; C1) of transmission to said satellite (S), characterised in that said communication in the uplink direction (P1; U1; C1) contains at least one return channel to the satellite and said communication in the downlink direction (P2; U2; C2) may be processed
- 10 directly by the user unit (2) by means of a receiver/decoder device that forms part of said unit.